GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1406
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Exploration of Minerals by GSI
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that only about 13% of the country's 575,000 square kilometers of land with geological potential has been explored, if so, the details and facts thereof;
(b) the exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during the last three years for Gold and the progress achieved as a result of the same, State-wise; and
(c) the quantum of funds allocated, released and utilized for carrying out exploration activities in the country, State/mineral-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES, POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Geological Survey of India [GSI] has covered almost the entire area of 31.4 lakh sq. km. of the country's mappable area by systematic geological mapping on 1:50,000 scale. On the basis of this, the geological potential area of 5.71 lakh sq. km. (Obvious Geological Potential) has been identified for scheduled minerals except non-coal fuel minerals. Further, GSI has launched National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) and National Geophysical Mapping (NGPM) programs. Of the identified obvious geological potential area, GSI has covered 3.17 lakh sq km and 1.9 lakh sq km by NGCM and NGPM respectively. Private and public mineral exploration agencies launch mineral exploration programmes based on the above baseline data.

(b): During the last three years GSI has carried out gold exploration work in the states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Arunac
hal Pradesh. As a result of the exploration work of GSI, 9.8 million tonnes of gold resources were established in the state of Rajasthan (6.78 mt), Jharkhand (2 mt) and Karnataka (1.02 mt) during the field seasons 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

(c): The details of funds allocated and utilized by GSI for mineral exploration activities in the country during the last three years (up to January 2017) is given below:

(Rupees in lakhs)
Region 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17
(up to Jan'17)
Allocation Actual Expend. Allocation Actual Expend. Allocation Actual Expend.
Western 347.60 347.36 296.50 296.00 977.00 830.04
Eastern 353.45 353.30 603.72 600.47 1210.00 1020.08
Northern 84.50 82.92 117.50 115.22 321.50 235.58
Southern 309.00 307.76 548.84 555.15 1043.50 715.65
Central 605.45 605.31 424.95 415.61 675.00 522.54
North-eastern 73.00 71.77 164.47 207.04 130.00 109.94
GSI (As a whole) 1773.00
1768.42
2155.98
2189.49
4357.00
3433.83

Western Region: Rajasthan and Gujarat.
Eastern Region: West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.
Northern Region: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.
Southern Region: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala.
Central Region: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
Northeastern Region: Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

The details of funds allocated and utilized by MECL for mineral exploration activities in the country during the last three years and

current year is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

YEAR	EXPENDITURE		STATES IN WHICH WORK DONE
	Fund Allocated	Fund Utilized	
2013 − 14	900	900	Rajasthan, Nagaland, Karnataka, Jharkhand & Meghalaya
2014 − 15	1100	1100	Rajasthan, Nagaland, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
2015 − 16	1500	1500	Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu
2016 − 17	415	415	Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu

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